

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 19, 2012

Proclaim World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2012

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), also known as Sickle Cell Anemia, affects millions of people throughout the world. SCD is a congenital disorder characterized by an insufficient supply of red blood cells to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body.

According to the National Institutes of Health, SCD is particularly common among those whose ancestors come from sub-Saharan Africa, South or Central America, Caribbean Islands, certain Mediterranean regions, India and Saudi Arabia.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that in the United States, SCD affects 90,000 to 100,000 people and the life expectancy is 46-years of age for men and 48-years of age for women.

SCD affects one out of every five-hundred African-American births and one out of every thirty six-thousand Hispanic-American births. Children with SCD are at least four times as likely as children without it to have fair or poor health status.

Many people diagnosed with SCD need to have a blood transfusion of one or more units, every two-to-four weeks for the rest of their lives. Many of those in need for the transfusion face the challenge of not enough consistent blood donors who match their blood type. Race or genetically matched bone marrow, stem cell and cord blood transplants are potentially curative treatments for SCD. Unfortunately, an inadequate supply of minority or same race donors exists to match those in desperate need of a lifesaving transplant.

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MOLINA _____

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Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center developed a clinical trial for a promising new drug treatment that involves the oral administration of L-glutamine, which is the most common amino acid in the body. This is one of the few experimental treatments for SCD to reach the Phase 3 clinical trial stage and now utilized by researchers throughout the U.S. for sickle cell treatment.

SCD affects every race and is growing globally and locally. A simple blood test will indicate if an individual has the disease or carry the trait. It is important to stay educated, engaged and empowered. On December 8, 2008, the United Nations put forth a resolution acknowledging June 19th as World Sickle Cell Day recognizing that sickle cell anemia is a public health problem and that there is a need for more awareness.

The Empowerment Congress of the Second District is engaging community leaders, community stakeholders, faith-based groups and elected officials to be more educated about SCD and also encourage members of the community to become blood and marrow donors.

The County of Los Angeles is encouraged to join with the efforts of World Sickle Cell Day and continue to work towards the education and greater access to prevention, care, treatment and support services to those impacted by this disease.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim Tuesday, June 19, 2012 as World Sickle Cell Day throughout Los Angeles County and urge local residents, community stakeholders and County employees to support and participate in events planned on this day.

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